Dual citizenship

846. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give dual citizenship to all overseas Indians immigrated after January 26, 1950;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the citizens of India migrated after 1950 can enjoy all privileges of an Indian citizen except the voting rights;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not giving voting rights;

(d) whether Government of India have expanded the list 16 countries which it notified earlier; and

(e) if so, by when Government are going to amend the citizenship Act for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Government proposes to grant registration of Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who migrated from India after 26th January, 1950 and is or has never been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, as long as his/her home country allows dual citizenship under the local laws.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) It is under consideration.

Dual citizenship

847. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to grant dual citizenship to those Indians who left the country after January 26, 1950;

(b) if so, what rights persons of Indian origin (PIOs) are expected to enjoy who opt for dual citizenship for their own country or abroad;

(c) the countries at present who have adopted dual citizenship laws/ treaty facilitating the same;

(d) by when Government is expected to announce registration procedure in this regard; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to scrap soon 1950 cut off date in order to extend this facility to all Indians residing abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Government proposes to grant registration of Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who migrated from India after 26th January, 1950 and is or has never been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, as long as their home country allows dual citizenship under the local laws.

(b) It is under consideration.

(c) Dual citizenship exists in different forms in different countries.

(d) Modalities are under consideration.

(e) No, Sir.

Discrimination in distribution of relief materials to Tsunami victims

848. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SCs/STs and Dalits are kept away whenever officials and NGOs come with assistance to distribute food, water and clothes etc. to the Tsunami affected families;

(b) whether any enquiry had been made in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) In the initial stage of distribution of relief, it was highlighted in the media that there was social discrimination in the distribution of relief. Immediately the matter was investigated and the concerned State Government was advised to take corrective measures. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment was nominated as the nodal Ministry to look into the welfare of weaker sections including women and children affected by the Tsunami. This Ministry has thereafter not received any reports of discrimination.